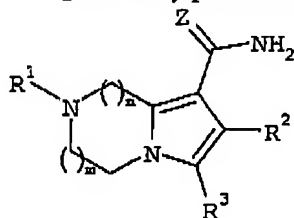


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A compound of general formula (I):



(I)

optionally further substituted in the saturated ring by one or more alkyl substituents,  
in which:

$R^1$  represents hydrogen,  $R^4$ ,  $-C(=Y)-NHR^4$ ,  $-SO_2NHR^4$ ,  $-C(=Z^1)-R^4$ ,  $-SO_2-R^4$  or  $-C(=Z^1)-OR^4$ ;

$R^2$  represents hydrogen, cyano, halogen or  $-C\equiv C-R^5$ ;

$R^3$  represents hydrogen, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, aroyl, aryl, aryloxycarbonyl, carboxy, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaroyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl or  $-C(=O)-NY^1Y^2$ ;

$R^4$  represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocycloalkyl each optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from aryl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl,  $-C(=O)-OR^8$ ,  $-C(=O)-R^9$ ,  $-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$ ,  $-NY^1Y^2$ ,

$-N(R^{10})-C(=O)-R^9$ ,  $-N(R^{10})-C(=O)-OR^9$ ,  $-N(R^{10})-SO_2-R^9$  or  $-Z^2R^8$ ; or  $R^4$

represents aryl or heteroaryl each optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from alkylenedioxy, alkenyl, alkenyloxy, alkynyl, aryl, cyano, halo, hydroxy, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, nitro,  $R^7$ ,  $-C(=O)-NY^3Y^4$ ,  $-C(=O)-OR^8$ ,  $-C(=O)-R^{11}$ ,

$-NY^3Y^4$ ,  $-N(R^{10})-C(=O)-R^9$ ,  $-N(R^{10})-C(=O)-NY^5Y^6$ ,  $-N(R^{10})-C(=O)-OR^9$ ,  $-N(R^{10})-SO_2-R^9$ ,  $-N(R^{10})-SO_2-NY^5Y^6$ ,  $-SO_2-NY^3Y^4$  and  $-Z^2R^{12}$ ;

$R^5$  represents hydrogen or alkyl;

$R^6$  represents alkyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aryl, arylsulfonyl, aroyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylsulfonyl, heteroaroyl and heterocycloalkyl;

$R^7$  represents alkyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkylalkyl each optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from aryl, cycloalkyl, cyano, halo, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl,

hydroxy, -CHO (or a 5-, 6- or 7-membered cyclic acetal derivative thereof), -C(=O)-NY<sup>1</sup>Y<sup>2</sup>, -C(=O)-OR<sup>8</sup>, -NY<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup>, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-C(=O)-R<sup>9</sup>, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-C(=O)-NY<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup>, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>9</sup>, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-NY<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup> and -OR<sup>9</sup>;

R<sup>8</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl;

R<sup>9</sup> represents alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkylalkyl;

R<sup>10</sup> represents hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R<sup>11</sup> represents alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkylalkyl; or alkyl optionally substituted by -NY<sup>1</sup>Y<sup>2</sup>;

R<sup>12</sup> represents aryl or heteroaryl; or alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or heterocycloalkylalkyl each optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from aryl, cycloalkyl, cyano, halo, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxy, -CHO (or a 5-, 6- or 7-membered cyclic acetal derivative thereof), -C(=O)-NY<sup>1</sup>Y<sup>2</sup>, -C(=O)-OR<sup>8</sup>, -NY<sup>1</sup>Y<sup>2</sup>, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-C(=O)-R<sup>9</sup>, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-C(=O)-NY<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup>, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>9</sup>, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-NY<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup> and -OR<sup>9</sup>;

Y represents O, S or NCN;

Y<sup>1</sup> and Y<sup>2</sup> are independently hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl; or the group -NY<sup>1</sup>Y<sup>2</sup> may form 5-7 membered ring which optionally contains an additional heteroatom selected from O, S or NR<sup>6</sup>;

Y<sup>3</sup> and Y<sup>4</sup> are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or alkyl optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from aryl, halo, heteroaryl, hydroxy, -C(=O)-NY<sup>5</sup>Y<sup>6</sup>, -C(=O)-OR<sup>8</sup>, -NY<sup>5</sup>Y<sup>6</sup>, -N(R<sup>6</sup>)-C(=O)-R<sup>9</sup>, -N(R<sup>6</sup>)-C(=O)-NY<sup>5</sup>Y<sup>6</sup>, -N(R<sup>6</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>9</sup>, -N(R<sup>6</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-NY<sup>5</sup>Y<sup>6</sup> and -OR<sup>9</sup>; or the group -NY<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup> may form a cyclic amine;

Y<sup>5</sup> and Y<sup>6</sup> are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroarylalkyl; or the group -NY<sup>5</sup>Y<sup>6</sup> may form a cyclic amine;

Z represents O or S;

Z<sup>1</sup> represents O or S;

Z<sup>2</sup> represents O or S(O)<sub>p</sub>;

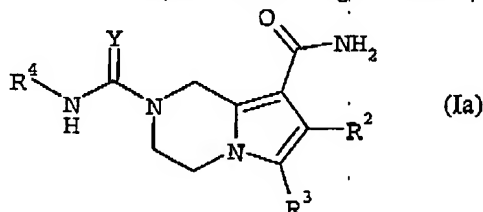
n is zero or an integer 1 or 2;

m is 1 or 2;

p is 1 or 2;

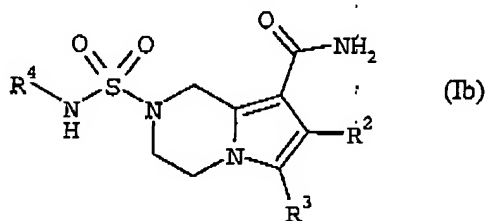
and the corresponding N-oxides, and the prodrug esters; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and hydrates of compounds of formula (I) and their N-oxides and their prodrug esters.

2. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (Ia):



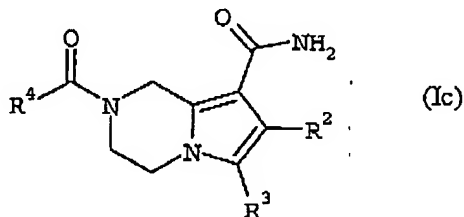
in which R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and Y are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and hydrates of compounds of formula (Ia) and their N-oxides and their prodrug esters.

3. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (Ib):



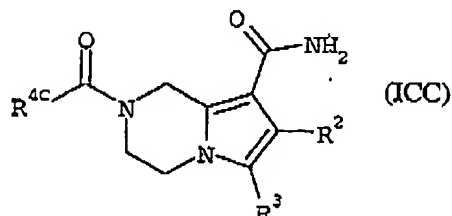
in which R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and hydrates of compounds of formula (Ib) and their N-oxides and their prodrug esters.

4. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (Ic):



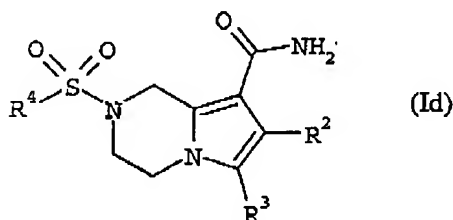
in which R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and hydrates of compounds of formula (Ic) and their N-oxides and their prodrug esters.

5. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (ICC):



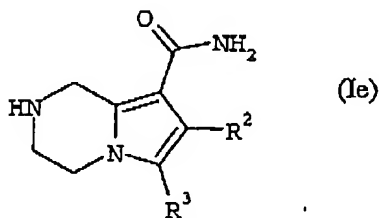
in which  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^{4C}$  represent  $NHR^4$  with  $R^4$  as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and hydrates of compounds of formula (Ic) and their N-oxides and their prodrug esters.

6. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (Id):-



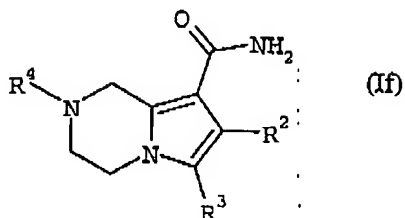
in which  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and hydrates of compounds of formula (Id) and their N-oxides and their prodrug esters.

7. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (Ie):



in which  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and hydrates of compounds of formula (Ie) and their N-oxides and their prodrug esters.

8. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, of formula (If):



in which  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are as hereinbefore defined; and the corresponding N-oxides, and the prodrug esters; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and hydrates of compounds of formula (If) and their N-oxides and their prodrug esters.

9. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active principle, at least one compound according to claim 1.

10. (currently amended) A method of ~~inhibiting JNK activity in a patient~~ treating asthma, comprising: administering to a patient in need thereof an effective dose of a compound according to claim 1 ~~to the patient~~.